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ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

CHAGAS CAMPAIGN--Argentina and Paraguay are jointly implementing a campaign to fight Chagas disease in Formosa and in the Paraguayan border area. [Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Jul 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER VACCINE--The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation today shipped 400,000 doses of yellow fever vaccine to Caracas, pursuant to a \$30,000 purchase contract signed with the Venezuelan Government. It has been reported that this sale will in no way affect Brazilian needs, since there is a permanent stock of five million doses monthly. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

BURMA

OVER 100 CASES OF PLAGUE REPORTED BEFORE JULY

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 5 Aug 78 p.1

[Text]

A total of 115 cases of plague with five fatalities, were recorded by the Health Department during the first seven months of 1978 ending 21 July.

The incidence of the disease in Karen State was the highest with 42 cases of which there were two fatalities and that for Kayah State was 28 with no fatality.

In Mandalay Division there were 19 cases with no fatality. In Magwe Division there were 10 cases with no fatality.

In Mon State there were nine cases with three fatalities; in Rangoon Division three cases with no fatality; in Shan State three cases with no fatality and in Pegu Division there was none.

The number of casualties was very low due to prompt action taken by the Health Department to send medical teams to the areas where the disease broke out and take curative and preventive measures.

CSO: 5400

BURMA

BRIEFS

ANTITUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN--Pinchaung, 28 Jul--A health team led by Health Assistant U Thein Hlaing and Lady Health Visitor Daw Mya Kyi carried out preventive measures against tuberculosis in Innagan Rural Health Centre area from 6 to 24 July 1978. The measure was carried out under the People's Health Plan. Some 2,163 children, including students up to 14 years of age and children above 3 months' old, were inoculated in Innagan, Moenandaw, Hsinthaygan and Shangon village-tracts during the period. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 5 Aug 78 p 1]

CHOLERA IN THEDAW-WUNDWIN--Thedaw-Wundwin--30 Jul--A cholera outbreak has been reported in Kywatkan village tract where four fatalities were recorded in five days, 26 to 30 July. Four out of the ten persons suffering from gastroenteritis died in the village and the rest have been warded at Wundwin Township Hospital. Township Health Department personnel, with the assistance of local Party and Council functionaries carried out sanitation work in the village. They chlorinated ponds and wells and inoculated more than 600 villagers. The outbreak is reportedly due to contaminated water. (231) [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Aug 78 p 4]

CSO: 5400

CHILE

BRIEFS

VACCINATION ORDER ALARMS--Santiago, Chile, 9 Aug--Chilean officials called for calm here today after incidents created by a mass of people which gathered during the start of a massive vaccination campaign against meningitis. All children between the ages of 2 and 16 will be vaccinated within 2 weeks: 50,000 children were vaccinated today. It was reported, however, that in some offices of the National Health Services (SNS) there were crowds of alarmed parents who pressured officials to get quick attention and that some fistfights and violent discussion took place. Health Minister Mario Jimenez visited the vaccination sites and indicated that the situation is under control and that parents should not be alarmed. He added that there is no epidemic of meningitis meningococcus but only an incipient outbreak which made the vaccination advisable. According to official reports, there were 32 cases in Santiago before officials decided to implement a vaccination campaign, which will extend to all educational establishments and special health offices at a cost of \$1 million. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 9 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

DENGUE EPIDEMIC SPREADING--Tegucigalpa, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The dengue epidemic which has been attacking northern Honduras for the past few weeks has spread westward and to the central part of the country, according to reports received at the capital city press media today. In San Pedro Sula alone in northern Honduras, nearly 80,000 cases have been detected which have caused five deaths as a consequence of the disease transmitted by the aedes aegypti mosquito. The extension of the disease to other national areas has been blamed here on the lack of effective sanitary controls which should have established a quarantine for interdepartmental travel. The aedes aegypti is very abundant throughout Honduras and has a high reproductive rate because its larvae grow strong in any water deposit. Meanwhile, unscrupulous individuals have appeared who are robbing the people by selling alleged "wonder" drugs against dengue. [Text] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1822 GMT 19 Aug 78 PA]

CSO: 5400

INDIA

GRANT FOR RESEARCH ON 'DEADLY' INFECTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jul 78 p 3

[Text] The Central Government's Department of Science and Technology has provided grants to two institutions to conduct research on a "deadly" infection in the Ratnagiri area, about 200 miles from Bombay. It affects internal organs such as liver or kidney and is usually fatal.

A committee has been set up with Dr A. B. Chowdhury, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, as chairman, to study the problem. Dr Chowdhury said in Calcutta on Wednesday that the disease, schistosomiasis, was widely prevalent in African, South American and several Asian countries and had taken a "devastating toll" of lives.

It was unknown in India, however, till 1954 when about 250 cases were reported in the Ratnagiri area. Recent studies had shown that six or seven patients still carried the infection. Research workers would consider the "enigma" as to why Indians did not become as gravely ill from this disease as the people in other countries.

Dr Chowdhury said China was the only country which had been able to control the disease. An United Nations team, which had visited China, found that besides using molluscides to kill snails, which were the main transmitting agents of this infection, the Chinese had exterminated nearly the entire snail population by developing marshy lands and diverting rivers.

Dr Chowdhury, who was a member of the team, said the Chinese had formed "vigilance squads" comprising small boys armed with chopsticks, whose task was to kill snails.

Extensive irrigation programmes could spread the disease by disturbing the natural habitats of snails and causing them to infest the irrigation canals.

He said efforts should be made to check the encephalitis epidemic in Burdwan because there was no specific drug which could cure it.

This was the third encephalitis epidemic. The first was in 1973 which took a heavy toll of lives in Bankura and Burdwan. At the initial stage, the disease could not be diagnosed. Later, experts of the School of Tropical Medicine isolated the virus. It was probable that encephalitis epidemics could not be diagnosed earlier.

The second epidemic broke out in 1976 when there were 307 cases. Of them, 126 people died. A part of Bihar was also affected. This year's epidemic had so far taken a toll of 74 lives. There have been 182 attacks.

About 130 villages in 20 blocks in eastern Burdwan have been affected. Most of this area was low-lying with accumulations of stagnant water which facilitate the growth of culex mosquitoes, the main transmitting agent of the infection. The disease is also spread by pigs. This is why it was reported to have affected mostly poor people who live in hovels with pigs and other animals.

Since there is no specific cure for the disease, medical circles feel that vaccines should be developed in India. They are imported from Japan at high costs.

Research workers at the School of Tropical Medicine say that more "brain material" should be collected from victims of the disease for further studies.

CSO: 5400

INDIA

STAFF SHORTAGE HITS MALARIA ERADICATION PLAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Jul 78 p 3

[Text] Midnapore, 27 Jul--Shortage of workers has affected implementation of the Central Government's malaria eradication programme in all the six districts of the Burdwan division. At least 560 of the 2,126 posts are still vacant, though the work was started in May 1977. These are posts for workers to be engaged in "surveillance" which is especially important between June and November when the disease spreads.

About 170 posts are vacant in Midnapore, 120 in Burdwan, 95 in Hooghly, 70 in Birbhum, 37 in Purulia and 70 in Bankura, according to Dr S. R. Banerjee, Zonal Assistant Director of Health Services (Malaria), Burdwan Division, who is based at Midnapore.

He ascribed the recrudescence of the disease in West Bengal since the late sixties to the "laxity" in surveillance following the withdrawal of 23 of the 27 malaria control units after the situation had improved "miraculously" in the late fifties. This, coupled with inadequate supply of drugs and insecticides and the growth in population, had led to about 130 deaths from malaria in the State between 1975 and 1977, Dr Banerjee said.

One malaria control unit has again been set up in each of the 15 districts. Drug depots are being opened in villages to facilitate free distribution of preventive and curative drugs. All medical officers attached to primary health centres in Bankura, Burdwan, Hooghly and Birbhum, and some belonging to Midnapore and Purulia, have been trained in malaria eradication. Training of inspectors and laboratory assistants is underway.

Dr Banerjee said the main hindrance was the reluctance of the people to allow the use of the anti-malaria spray which was "foiling all our efforts." He added that even some MLAs had refused to have their houses sprayed. According to reports, DDT sprayed in houses was often washed away promptly by the residents who felt that it spoiled the appearance of the walls.

CSO: 5400

INDIA

BRIEFS

31 KALA-AZAR DEATHS--New Delhi, 28 Jul--Thirty-one deaths were reported till July 8 from Kala-azar in Bihar, the Lok Sabha was told in a written answer yesterday, reports PTI. In the districts affected during 1977, the incidence had been checked after spraying DDT. The incidence increased where spraying was not undertaken last year. It had since been undertaken. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Jul 78 p 9]

QUININE EXPORT BANNED--New Delhi, 26 Jul--Export of quinine, quinine products and cinchone alkaloids has been banned with immediate effect. Export of quinine sulphate will, however, be allowed under OGL on production of "no objection" certificates from the Drugs Controller. These decisions have been taken at the instance of the National Malaria Eradication Programme authorities in the context of the resurgence of malaria in a big way. It is pointed out that there are certain types of malaria which respond to treatment by quinine and quinine products. This type of malaria is mostly in the North Eastern Region. On the other hand, the type of malaria commonly seen in North India is responsive to treatment by synthetic drugs like chloroquine, etc. The NMEP authorities want to ensure that there are enough stocks of quinine and quinine products to meet the increased demand expected in the wake of the rainy season. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Jul 78 p 6]

CSO: 5400

INDONESIA

ASSOCIATION TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS HOLDS CONGRESS IN BANDUNG

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Jun 78 p 12

[Text] According to the People's Health Center, only about 50 percent of hospitalized tuberculosis patients achieve full recovery. Mrs Rusiah Sardjono, general chairman of the board of directors of the Association to Combat Tuberculosis in Indonesia, indicated this at the opening of the association's second congress in Bandung on Wednesday evening.

According to Mrs Rusiah, contagious tuberculosis afflicts about 0.6 percent of the Indonesian population. The government, especially the Department of Health, has been giving considerable attention to combating tuberculosis, sponsoring research and experiments.

It is said that government efforts are centered around reducing the time required for treatment. This is intended to increase the number of patients who recover, besides reducing the possibility of patients abandoning treatments prematurely. This is a very serious problem, Mrs Rusiah noted, because of the high cost of medicines, such as (rifampicin) and thambutol. In this regard, the Association to Combat Tuberculosis in Indonesia endeavors to motivate patients to continue their treatment faithfully, particularly those classified as carriers.

The group's second congress, scheduled to last until 3 June, is being attended by 250 participants from 22 provinces. Mrs Tien Soeharto and several high officers welcomed the delegates at opening ceremonies on Wednesday evening.

In her welcoming remarks, Mrs Tien Soeharto said that participation of the general public in fighting tuberculosis was most important. Without the participation of the public, it will be very difficult for the government to combat tuberculosis. This is due to the fact that combating tuberculosis does not involve medical treatment alone, but touches broad aspects of daily life, such as the quality of the diet, and other aspects.

According to Mrs Tien, the great attention being accorded tuberculosis is due to the fact that it primarily attacks housewives and people between 15 and 40 years of age.

INDONESIA

RESPIRATORY DISEASES REPORTED PREVALENT IN SOUTH SUMATRA

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Jun 78 p 8

[Text] A portion of the inhabitants of Tanjung-Agung subdistrict, Lematang Ilir Ogan Tengah Regency, South Sumatra, are suffering from respiratory diseases which may develop into tuberculosis.

Without citing figures, the People's Health Center said that 60 percent of the residents of the subdistrict were suffering from this condition. Preventive measures are already in progress, with mass vaccination of the public three times yearly. According to a report issued by University of Sriwijaya students carrying out work there, the People's Health Center efforts lack support, because the people in the area do not understand the importance of vaccination.

The report did not say whether the People's Health Center had problems in preparing treatment. Yet, it is said, they are now considering the possibility of forming an Organization to Overcome Tuberculosis. Meanwhile, before these plans can be carried out, the People's Health Center, in cooperation with the university students working there, are fighting tuberculosis.

Between March and June, 30 University of Sriwijaya students have been working in the subdistrict. They are working in the villages of Sugihwaras, Paduraksa and Darmo, which are far apart, but linked by a highway.

The students are carrying out investigations in various fields. After agriculture, health is the most significant problem. They are providing information on respiratory diseases, sanitation, and living in a healthy manner, and are giving aid directly to patients.

Of those helped in Darmo in the past 2 months, 35 percent were suffering from respiratory diseases which were developing into active tuberculosis. The illness attacks predominantly growing children. The situation is the same in Paduraksa. Of the 180 inhabitants investigated, 25 percent were suffering from this illness. Of the 89 babies and young children checked, 46 percent were affected.

INDONESIA

INCIDENCE OF FILARIASIS IN SOUTHEAST SULAWESI VILLAGES REPORTED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Jun 78 p 8

[Text] Several Southeast Sulawesi villages must be freed of the disease filariasis. The disease is spread by anopheles, culex and mansonias mosquitoes.

Dr Imanuddin Fuad, chief of the Directorate for the Prevention and Combating of Communicable Diseases of the Southeast Sulawesi Health Office told KOMPAS that filariasis had been found in the villages of Lawama, Walambinowite, Wansirimu and Laiworu in Muna Regency. Later, it was discovered in the village of Barangka in Buton Regency; the village of Wolo in Kolaka Regency; and in the villages of Benoa and Angata in Kendari Regency.

Two of the villages in Muna Regency had developed mass treatment programs in 1976. These were Lawama and Walambinowite, where half of the 4,158 inhabitants were treated, because of limited funds.

The percentage of the inhabitants of those two villages affected by filariasis is high. In Lawama, 14.17 percent of the 1,411 inhabitants checked have the disease. In Walambinowite, 7.9 percent of the 1,195 inhabitants checked had the disease. According to Dr Imanuddin Fuad, mass treatment of a village must be employed if 5 percent of the inhabitants come down with filariasis.

It was explained that, within the limits of available funds, the inhabitants of the villages would undergo mass treatment, both those which clearly have filariasis outbreaks and villages, such as in Buton, Kalaka and Kendari regencies, where a severe outbreak is believed to have occurred. The aim of prevention efforts, Dr Imanuddin Fuad noted, is the treatment of new cases. Meanwhile, mosquito control efforts cannot be carried out because of the great cost involved.

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CSO: 5400

IRAN

AUTHORITIES CONFIRM REPORTS OF MALARIA

Tehran TEHRAN JOURNAL in English 3 Aug 78 p 3

[Text] Tehran--Medical authorities have confirmed reports of malaria in some parts of the country but add that the disease has been brought into the country by foreign workers.

A recent medical examination of foreign workers in Karaj, north of the capital, revealed that they were suffering from malaria.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare announced that it had taken immediate precautionary measures to check any possible spread of the disease.

A Malaria Eradication Center official in Azarbaijan told the press yesterday that a number of malaria cases had been reported in that province.

However, he stressed that the disease had been imported and was not a local phenomenon, as malaria had previously been completely eradicated in that region.

A number of foreign workers migrate during the summer months from the southern parts of the country where malaria still exists, often bringing the disease with them, the official explained.

The Fars Province Malaria Eradication Center yesterday confirmed the existence of malaria in their region, but added that all the cases were Afghani workers or people from the nearby Sheikdoms.

The stated that although the disease had not been completely wiped out in that region, it had now been brought under full control. The outbreak of the disease has been announced in some neighbouring countries.

CSO: 5400

CHOLERA OUTBREAK NOW UNDER CONTROL

Tehran TEHRAN JOURNAL in English 2 Aug 78 p 3

[Text]

TEHRAN — Deputy Health Minister Nasser Fakhar yesterday gave an assurance that cholera had been brought completely under control in the cities of Gonabad and Minab.

The Ministry of Health officially confirmed the existence of some isolated cases of cholera in the central Iran desert town of Gonabad and the Persian Gulf port of Minab last week.

Fakhar told reporters that seven cases of cholera were reported in Gonabad last month but all the patients were under medical treatment.

Ministry officials have reiterated that there is no cause for alarm because earlier prompt action has contained the spread of the disease.

Medical teams in the two towns have brought the situation under complete control and the disease has been completely eradicated inside and immediately surrounding Minab and Gonabad, officials said.

The Hormozgan Province health director announced yesterday that 15 cases of cholera were reported in Minab and its suburbs last month.

The official said that after medical tests, only seven cases of cholera were confirmed.

● TEHRAN — Minister of Health and Welfare Nasrollah Mojdehi, in an unprecedented move, has appealed to the Iranian clergy to help in the education of people in matters of health and hygiene throughout the country.

At a press luncheon yesterday, Mojdehi called on the mass media and the clergy to back the ministry's country-wide educational program.

Dr. Mojdehi said that the Ministry of Health will give priority to preventive medicine.

He said that his first step when appointed as minister was to remove the misunderstanding between the Ministry of Health and doctors and hospitals.

Mojdehi said that cholera has been totally crushed in the cities where it had been detected. He said he will recommend that a medal to be conferred on Dr. Ansary, director of the Gonabad Health Department for his prompt action in checking cholera in that town.

The condition of all the patients was satisfactory.

He said that no fresh cases of cholera had been detected in the town or immediately outside the area.

The health director of the eastern province of Khorasan, Dr. Khosrowshahi, yesterday announced that there were two children receiving hospital treatment.

No cases of cholera have been reported in the national capital. Health authorities warned Tehran residents last month that stray dogs and garbage scattered on the streets posed the greatest health threat. They also warned school children against buying food from mobile kiosks and street vendors.

The municipal officials were advised to install incinerators throughout the capital for quick and efficient garbage disposal.

The Foreign Ministry advised tourists and visitors recently that they must have their vaccination papers certified by the nearest Iranian diplomatic mission before entering this country.

IRAN

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATHS REPORTED--Tehran--Five persons have died of cholera in Minab, near Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf, it was reported yesterday. Earlier the Ministry of Health confirmed cholera outbreaks to Gonabad, north-east and in Minab south Iran. In Gonabad the ministry also confirmed eight patients died of cholera last week. In both cases the ministry claimed the disease is under control. [Tehran TEHRAN JOURNAL in English 1 Aug 78 p 3]

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IRAQ

BRIEFS

CHOLERA SUBSIDENCE--Baghdad, 22 Aug--Dr Sa'dun Khalifah, director of preventive medicine, has announced that no cholera cases have been recorded in Iraq for the third consecutive day. He explained that most of the patients struck by the illness in the governorates have left the hospital after being cured. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Aug 78 JN]

CSO: 5400

JAPAN

BRIEFS

NEW CHOLERA VICTIMS--Tokyo, 22 Aug KYODO--Two more Japanese who returned from a visit to the Philippines have been declared cholera victims. The National Institute of Health said one of the two who had been hospitalized in Sapporo was diagnosed as a carrier of El Tor Inaba [as received] type cholera germs. The other was a 30-year-old company official in Tokyo who has been isolated in a hospital in Tokyo after developing diarrhea. He returned to Tokyo Monday after a visit to the Philippines alone from August 18 to 21. The pair brought to 10 the number of Japanese suffering from cholera this year. Six of them have been found to be cholera victims since Thursday. The victim in Sapporo is a college student who visited the Philippines with his father. Both have been hospitalized since their return home from the trip. They took part in a 16-member group tour of the Philippines, of whom three were isolated as suspected cholera victims. The institute said close examinations on 13 remaining tour members were underway. The Health and Welfare Ministry advised Japanese visiting the Philippines, India and other cholera-infested countries to take preventive steps against the disease. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 22 Aug 78 OW]

CSO: 5400

MASS IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN PLANNED

Monrovia THE LIBERIAN AGE in English 18 Jul 78 p 6

[Text]

IN order to ensure the success of the National Expanded Program on Immunization launched early this month, President Tolbert has appealed for the full and total participation and involvement of the entire citizenry in the program.

In a special nationwide broadcast last Wednesday, President Tolbert said "Let all citizens, especially all mothers of child-bearing age, bring their children to the nearest medical post for free immunization to make our nation healthy and vibrant, to ensure long and productive lives.

President Tolbert also said that in Liberia's continuing battle against the enemy of disease with the active assistance of the Baptist World Alliance and the Brother's Brother Foundation, Government is

directing this immunization campaign against preventable childhood diseases such as Measles, Tuberculosis, Whooping Cough, Polio, Diphtheria and Tetanus.

The Chief Executive noted that constraints such as inadequate refrigeration system, transportation facilities, reporting system, inadequate motivation of our people and shortage of trained manpower have always hindered the progress of our immunization activities in the past.

These constraints, the President went on, need no longer prevail and measures have now been successfully undertaken for effective implementation of a national immunization program.

Accordingly, the President pointed out, a Board of Immunization has been established

with the co-ordination of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to plan, implement and deliver immunization to the susceptible population.

Children two years old and under will be reached in the program which will be initiated in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Cape Mount Counties. Subsequently, the President assured that the children of all other counties and territories will be included in the program.

The President re-emphasized that the Government of Liberia attaches high priority to the development of Health Care Delivery System in the Country. Within our means, he said, Government will continue to press forward while extending the benefits of medicare to all Liberians.

The Chief Executive stressed that the immunization program is not a matter to be left solely to the professional health medical personnel which Government, at great expense, has put on the field, but that every man, woman and child should give wholehearted support to the immunization campaign.

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DETECTION--Kuala Lumpur, Wed--Health teams taking swabs from about 100,000 people throughout the country since February have detected 1,228 cholera carriers among them. "The teams are making every effort possible to arrest the spread of the disease by getting the carriers and sending them for treatment," Director of Health Dr Abdul Talib Latiff said today. He added that though the cholera situation was improving, the carriers, who do not show any symptoms of cholera, were one of the main reasons for the inability to arrest the disease totally. Three cholera cases, all from Trengganu, were reported today. One carrier was detected in Kelantan. [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Aug 78 p 6 BK]

DENGUE FEVER DECREASE--Kuala Lumpur, Wed--The number of dengue fever cases in peninsular Malaysia has decreased in comparison to the same period last year, Director of Health Dr Abdul Talib Latiff said here today. While there were 249 cases of dengue reported with 21 deaths last year during this time, the number to date this year has decreased to 202 cases with 19 deaths. Kelantan reported no cases this year while there were 5 cases last year. Trengganu has had no cases both years. In Pahang, the number of cases decreased from 18 last year to three this year. Penang had a large decline, with 78 last year to eight this year. Dengue cases in Kedah fell from 11 last year to six this year and in Selangor, were halved from 62 to 31. However, he said an increase in cases had been registered in Perak, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore. [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Aug 78 p 6 BK]

KUALA TRENGGANU CHOLERA--Kuala Trengganu, Thurs--A 10-month old boy from the Dungun district has been confirmed to be suffering from cholera and was admitted to the district hospital here yesterday. This brings the number of such cases to 5 and for the whole state to 89. A general hospital spokesman said today that 18 persons were still in hospital here, in Dungun and Jerteh. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Aug 78 p 11 BK]

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

RABIES EPIDEMIC--Gochas--The spectre of a rabies epidemic in this area is looming closer, after two more children were treated for rabies after playing with a meercat. An immunisation campaign against rabies, covering a 50 kilogram radius, is now underway. Last week a cow died after acting in a strange manner and subsequent tests revealed, that it had died of rabies. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 15 Aug 78 p 2]

JAUNDICE IN MILITARY--Grootfontein--Sixty National Service trainees are being treated for jaundice in the hospital. Special arrangements have been made to transfer them to the military hospital in Pretoria. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 15 Aug 78 p 2]

CSO: 5400

TB DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM IN SALISBURY

Salisbury ZIMBABWE TIMES in English 30 Jun 78 p 9

[Article by Oswald Nyagwambo]

[Text]

SALISBURY

DR. FRED HOLLINS, the City Health Department officer in charge of the tuberculosis control scheme has said that T.B. can become a serious disease if not treated at an early stage.

Speaking to the ZT recently before despatching his team on a "TB skin test" to grade five school children in Kambumzuma, Dr. Hollins said it did not cost a TB victim a single cent to be treated.

Giving a grim example of the seriousness of TB, Dr. Hollis said, "Just recently a 25-year-old girl who had suffered from TB for six months came to us for treatment. We tried all we could to cure her, but because it was too late for the cure, she died three days later".

He added that where a child was affected by TB, careful examination on the parents showed that either the father or the mother of the home was also affected.

SYMPTOMS

"As it is apparent that the home is the most likely place for people to catch TB, we try our best to ask parents of affected children to go to their nearest hospitals for X-rays", he said.

In reply to how a person can sense the symptoms of TB, he said: "Generally the person affected does not feel all right. One feels tired, uneasy and weak, loss of weight and usually the person sweats at night."

Explaining the task taken by his TB unit in the City Health Department, Dr. Hollis said:

"We have two aspects with regard to TB. First, we want to control the disease from the community because it is an infectious disease and, second, we have clinics established in various localities where out-patients in those localities receive treatment. This also saves big hospitals from too many patients coming in for treatment".

He continued: "Once a person is

found to have TB he will have to be treated for 18 months. During the first three to six months, the patient will be injected daily, depending on the nature of the disease".

"Asked if the scheme had made any progress, the doctor replied: "We have made tremendous progress. In fact, I can claim that Salisbury's African community has the lowest rate of TB compared with other African countries.

"When the TB programme was launched by the City Council in 1976, 37 000 primary school children were tested and 371 cases were reported. In 1977 the record of cases dropped to 274 and this year there have so far been 87 cases" he said.

RHODESIA

RABIES OUTBREAK KILLS SEVEN

Salisbury THE RHODESIA HERALD in English 22 Jul 78 p 7

[Text] A serious outbreak of rabies in the tribal trust lands surrounding Chiredzi and Triangle has claimed seven lives in the past month, and many more are believed to be dying in the bush.

A medical spokesman in the area said yesterday that all the victims were Africans from the rural areas.

A Roman Catholic priest, who was bitten by an African child, and an undisclosed number of security forces personnel, are being treated for the disease at Chiredzi and Triangle hospitals.

The spokesman said they were out-patients, having the serum and vaccination treatment.

"Because of the terrorist war, veterinary officers are not able to go into the field to vaccinate dogs.

"Africans in the tribal trust lands are prohibited by the terrorists from having their dogs vaccinated, or their cattle dipped, under pain of death.

"Clinics have closed down and the disease is widespread," he said.

There were many other people in the tribal areas who were afraid to go to the hospitals, and had died.

"We have heard reports that many people are dying in the bush.

"I would estimate that for every person who had died in hospital, four or five have died at their homes in the tribal areas."

There were no patients at the hospitals yesterday. The sole African who was brought in on Wednesday absconded the next day, he said.

A spokesman for the veterinary services, Fort Victoria, said: "Our immunisation team can get to some places, but the response is poor. The people head for the hills as soon as we get there."

He confirmed that rabies was increasing in the area. "There have always been one or two deaths a year but this outbreak, which started about 18 months ago, is the most serious with which we have to contend."

He said the disease had affected dogs, cattle and wildlife.

Outbreak

The Provincial Veterinary Officer, Matabeleland, Dr J.O.K. Rodger, said the outbreak in the Chiredzi district was not as serious as the one in the eastern border area.

There was a constant rabies threat in the Chipinga area because of stray dogs and jackals crossing from Mozambique. He said a number of cases had been diagnosed in Umtali and the disease was prevalent all the way up the eastern border.

"Rabies in Matabeleland is not a serious problem. We have had two reports of rabid dogs in the Plumtree area and we are carrying out a house to house check in the district.

CSO: 5400

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASE DISCOVERED--A case of cholera has been confirmed. The Environment Ministry said the victim is a 27-year old man living in (Queen Star). He is now recovering at the Middleton hospital. An investigation is being carried out to determine the cause of the infection. [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 5 Aug 78 BK]

CSO: 5400

SPAIN

BRIEFS

TYPHOID OUTBREAK--According to a report issued on Monday by the regional health directorate 25 persons from Tortosa (eastern Spain) were the victims of a typhoid epidemic caused by the contaminated waters of the Ebre River. According to the communique the condition of the 25 persons is not alarming and "the situation is under control." The regional health directorate asked the Tortosa inhabitants not to use the city water for drinking and to boil it for household uses. [Text] [Brussels LE PEUPLE in French 8 Aug 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

CHOLERA IN RIZE, 6,700 MALARIA CASES IN VIRANSEHIR

Istanbul AKSAM in Turkish 3 Aug 78 pp 1, 7

[Text] In a statement by the Viransehir [a district capital in Urfa Province] malaria eradication branch, it was stated that there were 6,700 cases of malaria in Viransehir and the villages [of Viransehir District?].

Authorities indicated that malaria-related combing efforts were in progress in 24 villages and populated localities. The authorities also said that indications were that the malaria had been carried by laborers working in the Cukurova region.

In this regard, Viransehir District Governor Mustafa Demir told a THA [Turkish News Agency] correspondent that combing efforts were in progress in Viransehir and in the villages and that eight separate teams were combatting various summer insects.

RIZE-The Soguksu locality of Kalkandere District in Rize [Province] has been quarantined on suspicion of cholera.

According to information obtained by a THA correspondent, an individual named Veli Varli and 15 of his friends contracted cholera while performing their military service in the Silvan District of Diyarbakir. Following this, they were sent to the Ankara Model [Numune] Hospital by the regimental command.

Veli Varli and his 15 friends, who were quarantined in the Ankara Model Hospital, took advantage of an opportunity and escaped from the hospital. The Ministry of Health informed the Rize health directorate of the situation, health directorate teams apprehended Veli Varli and placed him under quarantine.

The Deputy Governor of Kalkandere, Ahmet Yetimoglu, made a statement concerning the quarantining of Veli Varli. He indicated that all of the members of the Varli family had been placed under quarantine.

Furthermore, according to statements by Kalkandere municipality spokesmen, it was indicated that the drinking water had been clorinated and the neighborhood clinics had been quarantined and were being examined, against the possibility of a cholera epidemic in the locality of Soguksu.

TURKEY

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN ANKARA SHANTY TOWNS--Cholera has begun to spread through all of Ankara's shanty towns [gecekondul]. The provincial Council on Hygiene, which has not met for 2 years, met under the chairmanship of Governor Tekin Alp. Decisions of "vital" importance were made. The infectious disease services of the hospitals are filled with patients being treated for "acute intestinal infection." The number of deaths from this disease has exceeded 50. Attempts are being made to keep the disease secret. [Text] [Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 6 Aug 78 p 1]

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

NEW SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK--Porto Alegre--The [Rio Grande do Sul state] agriculture secretariat has confirmed an outbreak of African swine fever in the municipality of Tres Passos. All hogs at the affected farm were killed. [Excerpts] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 16 Aug 78 PY]

SWINE FEVER IN PERNAMBUCO--Recife--The Agriculture Ministry has confirmed the first outbreak of African swine fever in Pernambuco State in the municipality of Sao Lourenco da Mata, 30 km from Recife, where approximately 100 hogs have already been killed. The existence of a second outbreak of the disease in the municipality of Garanhuns, in the southern part of the state, is also feared. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 17 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

BURMA

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CHECKED IN WAW

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 2 Aug 78 pp 1, 4

[Text] Rangoon, 1 Aug--A team of four women veterinarians led by Daw Khin Thet Nyunt of the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department toured 44 villages in 20 village-tracts in Waw Township and successfully carried out preventive and curative measures against foot and mouth disease from 18 to 29 July.

Cattle at villages in Waw Township were recently stricken with foot-and-mouth disease.

The veterinary team toured villages in Was Township and attended to the cattle stricken with the disease and also held educative talks on prevention of the disease with assistance of the Village Party and Council functionaries, Peasants Asiayone members and departmental personnel. As a result of efforts made by the veterinary team and local authorities, the disease is now almost wiped out in the area.

CSO: 5400

COLOMBIA

SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN GIRARDOT REPORTED

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 28 Jul 78 p 10

/Text/ Girardot, (Colombia) (EFE)--The Public Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture has announced that swine fever has caused the death of 500 hogs in the port town of Girardot, located in the province of Cundinamarca.

Despite all the preventive measures applied in that country, veterinarians discovered symptoms of an outbreak of African swine fever infecting hogs and cows in the provinces of Tolima and Cundinamarca.

Humberto Parra, head of the Colombian Institute of Farming and Animal Husbandry (ICA), said that 100 hogs stricken by the epidemic had been ordered destroyed to avoid the spread of the disease to other animals.

According to a dispatch from Rome, the Italian Ministry of Public Health has banned the importation of frozen pork from Brazil.

Rome has indicated that this decision was taken for reasons of public health, after cases of swine fever had been reported in Brazil.

European Consultations

Brazil announced that government agricultural experts from Sao Paulo have left for Europe, to gather information of help in controlling the outbreak of swine fever that has occurred in that country.

The mission will be in contact with European scientific and technical institutions. It is made up of doctors of veterinary medicine Oswaldo Luiz Pasqualin of the Biological Institute, Fernando Gomez Da Costa Junior of the Zoological Technical Institute and Glenio Antonio Nogara of the Office for Technical Coordination of Constituent Health Services.

The Brazilian experts will visit Spain, Portugal, France and Italy, where they will obtain technical information on the investigations and research that have been conducted by those countries on the control of the disease.

It was also announced in Porto Alegre, the capital of the state of Rio Grande Do Sul, that the swine fever, known also as "African fever," will not block the holding of the International Cattle Exhibition, which is scheduled to take place from 20 through 28 August in the city of Estelo, 21 kilometers from Porto Alegre.

That exhibition, considered to be Brazil's most important, is participated in by cattlemen from neighboring countries. It features chiefly the most notably diverse breeds of animals from temperate and colder regions.

9238

CSO: 5400

DENMARK

GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER USE OF ANIMAL MEDICINES

Copenhagen POLITIKEN in Danish 21 Jul 78 Sect 1 p 3

[Text] The result of the debate about pork has been that the control of medicinal residues in all kinds of slaughtered animals will be intensified.

The new rules, which already have become effective, mean that all those animals which are removed from the slaughter line for bacteriologic investigation will also be investigated for residues of antibiotics or other medicines.

It is precisely those animals which give indications of disease or recently overcome disease which are being subjected to bacteriologic examination. And this means that it will also be those animals which involve the greatest risks of medicinal residues in the meat. But for reasons of capacity only approximately 10 percent of these animals have previously been examined for medicinal residues. The new rules mean that the number of these examinations will increase from approximately 2000 to 20,000 annually.

At the same time, the random sampling of normal animals in the slaughter line will continue. Approximately 9000 randomly selected animals are being examined annually here out of a total of 10-11 million carcasses. This number will not be changed.

The Medicine Rules Are Being Tightened Up

In return, preparations are being made for a considerable tightening up of the rules for using medicines in agriculture. Proposals have already been prepared for an announcement which will prohibit a series of therapeutic medicines, the use of which has been strongly criticized in public debate. This involves, for one thing, a series of hormone preparations. The announcement will also limit the number of medicines which can be used by the farmers without the cooperation of a veterinarian.

The new announcement does not cover the use of antibiotics in agriculture. There is a special announcement for this area, and according to the veterinary directorate it is good enough as it is--if only it were followed. However, the suspicion that it is not followed has resulted in discussions of changes in this area too. The final result may be that both veterinarians and farmers may have to keep books of both what antibiotics they deliver and what they receive.

The tighter rules for the use of medicines in agriculture will result in a limitation of the possibilities for an activity such as the one which is carried out by the Agricultural Veterinary Consultant Service--an organization which sells large amounts of medicines to farmers by mail and which has been sharply criticized in public debate.

8958

CSO: 5400

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF EPIZOOTICS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 21 Jun 78 p 6

[Text]

Ethiopia has been admitted to membership of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) during its 46th annual general session held in Paris May 2 through 29. It was disclosed here yesterday.

Dr. Solomon Haile Mariam, Head of the Veterinary Department in the Animal and Fisheries Development Authority, who headed a two-man delegation to the meeting, observed that Ethiopia's admission to the OIE is a great step forward. He said Ethiopia being a rich country in livestock, will immensely benefit from this international co-operation in sharing the knowledge and experiences developed over the years in the fight against livestock diseases.

Dr. Solomon, who attended the OIE session with Dr. Fikre Yosef, Head of the National Veterinary Laboratory at Debre Zeit, disclosed that his delegation presented two papers to the meeting. One of the papers dealt with a special research done on gastro-intestinal parasites on sheep and goats. "According to the study," Dr. Solomon said, "this disease is causing huge losses to peasants". He said the disease is fought by means of an expensive drug known as "antihelminthic." The Ethiopian delegation discussed the need for the local manufacture of the drug in order to produce it at cheaper

cost. The development of herbal medicine was also treated during the session. Dr. Solomon revealed that studies have been completed for the installation of plants to manufacture the drug. He also cited that intensive studies had been carried out on herbal medicine and added that so far about 300 species of plants have been identified.

Fight Against Animal Diseases

The other paper presented to the OIE session was devoted to the disease called "streptothricosis," which affects the skin of dairy animals. Dr. Solomon said this bovine disease is conventionally treated by antibiotics, which is also very expensive.

Speaking about other issues discussed at the meeting, Dr. Solomon cited the adoption of a resolution on the establishment of a Livestock Development Fund for Africa. The fund is to be used in the fight against animal disease. The killer disease — tripanosomiasis, transmitted by the tse tse fly was discussed. This same topic is to be taken up at length

at the general annual session next year and all member countries had been advised to prepare special papers. Appeals have been made to consider the issue on a global scale.

Referring to animal diseases in Ethiopia, Dr. Solomon remarked that such diseases as rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia have been reduced drastically. He stressed the need for increasing the production of vaccines and the intensification of mass vaccination programme. He said in order to achieve good results in this respect the co-operation of peasants is very essential.

According to Dr. Solomon, mass vaccination is undertaken on a nation-wide scale and the results have proved encouraging. At present around 900 vaccinators, about 350 animal health assistants and about 80 veterinary doctors are engaged in the campaign.

Created in Paris in 1924, the International Office of Epizootics at present has 98 member countries including Ethiopia. The objectives of the OIE is to promote and co-ordinate experimental or other research work concerning the pathology or prophylaxis of contagious diseases of livestock for which international collaboration is deemed desirable. It engages in the collection and brings to the attention of governments or their sanitary services all facts and documents of general interest concerning the course of epizootic diseases and the means used to control them.

CSO: 5400

ETHIOPIA

VETERINARY ACTIVITIES IN 1977 SUMMARIZED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 27 Jul 78 p 6

[Text]

ASSELA — The Veterinary Department of the Rural Development Agency of Arsi region last year vaccinated a total of 240,127 domestic animals against various diseases, including rinderpest, anthrax, pleuro-pneumonia, pasteurization, African horse sickness, sheep-pox and rabies. 18,543 other animals were treated for various diseases.

The veterinary services were carried out in the districts of Digelu and Ticho, Tenna, Robe, Sude, Aminga and Seru.

Meanwhile in Shekhet district, Inderta province, Tigray region, 7,074 animals were vaccinated, and 1,688 others were treated for various diseases.

Some peasants of Shekhet were also given special quality eggs and modern type bee-hives on a credit basis.

CSO: 5400

RHODESIA

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT WARNS ON SPRAYING

Salisbury THE RHODESIA HERALD in English 10 Aug 78 p 11

[Text]

THE Department of Veterinary Services yesterday warned cattle owners against spraying their stock with plant insecticides.

A spokesman said that because of the interruption of dipping services in some African areas, some cattle owners had adopted the "dangerous practice" of using plant insecticides to control ticks.

Some plant insecticides could be highly poisonous to stock, he said, urging farmers to use prescribed dips and to follow instructions on containers.

With the exception of arsenic, all registered dips could be used. Anyone in doubt was advised to consult their nearest veterinary office.

CSO: 5400

URUGUAY

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER ALERT VACCINATION--Montevideo, 17 Aug--Through a resolution published this morning, the government decreed a state of alert at national level and the vaccination of all hogs against the African swine fever. No official or production source has reported any case in the country so far, despite the proximity to Brazil where the disease has caused a disastrous situation. The government decree stated that the urgent and drastic measure is taken in order to preserve the swine production, which is vital to the livestock sector. The measure also specified that swine producers or veterinarians are compelled to report the appearance of any hog disease which causes a high rate of death. It also reasserted prior measures adopted early in July, such as strict control of vehicles and passengers coming from Brazil, particularly on the border, and the prohibition along the border of the transit of hogs and byproducts. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1504 GMT 17 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

RHODESIA COMMENTS ON MOZAMBIQUE FAILURE IN LOCUST CONTROL

Salisbury THE RHODESIA HERALD in English 2 Aug 78 p 4

[Text]

THERE would be repercussions in time because of the failure of Mozambique to co-operate in red locust control operations, the co-Minister of Agriculture, Mr Partridge, warned.

Speaking during committee of supply consideration of the \$53 million Agriculture General Vote, Mr Partridge told Wing Commander Roy Simmonds (RF, Hatfield) that the \$21 000 allocated to red locust control in Southern Africa was less than the South African contribution and contained "no element of donation" to neighbouring African countries. "If anything we may be on the receiv-

ing side," he said.

Unfortunately, Mozambique, which was a breeding ground for red locusts, was now inaccessible.

Asked by Mr Jan Buitendag (RF, Karoi) why money allocated to locust control this year had been reduced by \$3 500, Mr Partridge said the service was being operated more efficiently, some problems had been ironed out and the same activity was being obtained for less money.

CSO: 5400

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

LOCUSTS SUGGESTED PROTEIN SOURCE--Johannesburg: Locust swarms, far from being a devastating threat, could become a protein source to help the undernourished hordes of Africa, according to two writers in the South African Journal of Science. In the latest edition of the Journal, H. R. Hepburn and G. Mitchell state that adult locusts average at 300 to the square metre in their air. Through a series of estimates, they conclude that a swarm carries around one ton of locusts per hectare--and a recent East African swarm that covered 1,300 square kms must therefore have represented a mass of 130-million kg. "Since these animals consist of over 50 per cent crude protein on a dry weight basis, this represents a Godsend of about 65 million kg of concentrated, air-borne protein of pre-packaged in a durable exoskeletal container--the realisation in fact of cargocult prayer for a continent known to relish Mopane worms; the white ant and biltong," they say. The writers go on to suggest the money used attempting to kill locusts would be better used to trap, preserve and utilise this protein source. They do not put forward any theories about how to do it.--SAPA [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 17 Aug 78 p 7]

CSO: 5400

DENMARK

BRIEFS

COLORADO BEETLES THREATEN SJAELAND--Colorado beetles have now been found at 40 places in Denmark. The attacks this year have been concentrated in southern Jylland. The beetles have been defeated most places, but the rain has made it impossible to spray at Jejsing east of Tonder, at Tinglev, and at Ribe. "On the other hand the poor weather reduces the danger of new invasions," says Department Manager Henning Andersen, the Government Plant Control. The danger of attacks of Colorado beetles is greatest when it is very warm and the wind is from the southeast. Then the beetles come flying or floating with the ocean current from Poland and the two Germanies. There the beetle is widespread and has not been fought so effectively. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Jul 78 p 3] 8958

CSO: 5400

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

LOCUST INVASION--Nairobi--Experts fighting a locust invasion of the Horn of Africa said at the weekend the biggest swarm so far sighted in the outbreak had been found in central Ethiopia last week. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 16 Aug 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

GHANA

FRG TO FINANCE TSETSE FLY CONTROL PROGRAM

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 78 p 12

[Article by Clement Asante, Koforidua]

[Excerpt] Ghana and the Federal Republic of Germany have signed an agreement to start a \$1.5 million Tsetsefly Control Programme in the Northern Region next month to help sustain the country's livestock industry.

The programme will, among other things, identify the various tsetsefly species prevalent in the project areas, conduct aerial spraying and reclaim part of the tsetsefly infested areas for the development of the cattle industry.

Announcing this at the opening of the 11th Veterinary Staff Conference here yesterday, Dr S. B. K. Quartey, Director of Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture said, the FAO in collaboration with the OAU, has also initiated a joint subregion programme to train personnel to man the control centres of ticks and tick-borne disease in their respective countries.

In his keynote address, Col S. M. Akwagyiram, Agriculture Commissioner, called on the participants to start organizing simple informal seminars at the village level as part of their extension services to help educate the farmers to expand their flocks and establish new ones.

"What the industry needs is an improvement in the management and feeding practices and veterinary medical and extension services at the village level to ensure a rapid and substantial improvement in the health and productivity of the small ruminants," he said.

CSO: 5400

HUNGARY

BRIEFS

SYNTHETIC INSECTICIDE--Hungarian chemists have developed a new insecticide which shows absolutely no harmful effects on the natural environment. In addition, it is odorless and effectively protects plant life against pests. Work on the new substance began with the isolation from plants of a substance named Peritrin (perytryna), which displays insecticidal properties. There is a very small amount of Peritrin in plant organisms however. The next stage of research, therefore, was work on a synthesis and the synthesis was successful. The new substance, demonstrated at international exhibitions, won gold medals. It has already begun to be produced on an industrial scale.
[Text] [Warsaw PRZEGLAD OBRONY CYWILNEJ in Polish No 5, May 78 p 58]

CSO: 5400

LOCUST INVASION FEARED AS SWARMS GATHER

Salisbury THE RHODESIAN FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 28 Jul 78 p 1

[Text]

NEXT month and in September, Rhodesia may experience an invasion of red locusts from Mozambique.

"There are none in the country at the moment but we don't know what is going on in Mozambique now because of the lack of communication," a government entomologist told the Financial Gazette this week.

From "odd bits" of news reaching Rhodesia from East Africa, where the traditional breeding grounds are, it appears that "things are developing there," he said.

The red locusts are not the same species as those which are at present causing havoc in the Horn of Africa. The latter are desert-livers which do not normally travel any further south than Tanzania and Kenya.

"Never in recorded his-

tory has this species reached as far south as Rhodesia, although there is a sub-species of the desert locust living in the desert areas of South West Africa," said the entomologist.

These locusts might have got cut off from an invasion many years ago, but in any event Rhodesia would not now prove a suitable habitat for the desert variety.

Equally destructive

The red locusts which may enter Rhodesia from Mozambique are, however, just as destructive to crops as the desert locusts.

Their preferred diet is maize, sorghum, wheat, sugar and pasture grasses, but in 1972 when large swarms descended on Rhodesia they also attacked the pine plantations of the eastern districts.

The last time any pre-

ventive spraying was done in the known breeding grounds near Beira was in 1975, when the governments of South Africa, Mozambique and Rhodesia combined to tackle the problem.

Disaster

The plague of locusts in the Horn of Africa is reaching disaster proportions. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has called for an end to hostilities there because it has been found impossible to deal with the plague all the while the wars go on.

FAO director Edward Saouma said this week, "If we don't put an immediate end to the locust invasion, then we risk a similar disaster to that of 1958 when 167 000 tonnes of grain were destroyed in Ethiopia."

Mr Saouma said the pests threatened to destroy not only Africa but also neighbouring regions of western Asia. Fifty swarms had been sighted in Somalia and Ethiopia, as well as others in the Sudan, Pakistan and India.

If the red locust should enter Rhodesia in force the Government entomologist said he was confident they could be successfully dealt with by means of aerial spraying.

"We are geared up to meet this situation," he said. All the necessary equipment and insecticides were available.

The insecticides used pose no danger to humans or animals as they are used in weak concentrations — only 400 g to a hectare. Moreover they are not intended to have a residual effect and break down fairly quickly.

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

MANAGEMENT HAMPER INSECTICIDE DISTRIBUTION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Jul 78 p 2

['Economic Management' Column by 'The Manager': "Stagnation and Shortage"]

/Text/ During May 1978, the rice and subsidiary food crops in many Mekong Delta provinces were suffering serious damage from insects and disease but there was no insecticide. The Ministry of Agriculture also announced that due to a serious shortage of insecticide, it was necessary to distribute it a kilogram at a time. Meanwhile, the Southern Insecticide Corporation still had nearly a thousand tons in the warehouse. Investigating cadres from the Central Industrial Committee also confirmed this stagnant situation. Personnel in the corporation complained that because the insecticide must presently be distributed through many intermediate steps (first echelon, second echelon, etc.), it would take 3 to 4 more months before it reached the hands of the farmers and they could not provide prompt support.

In the economic sectors, many similar cases occur. Is it possible that the intermediate steps are unnecessary? In the supply of insecticide (as well as other production materials for agriculture), is it possible that production facilities, through the signing of contracts on the basis of state plan norms, could sell directly to the province?

7300

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

THUAN HAI COMBATS INSECTS--Thanks to effective countermeasures, leaf hoppers that were ravaging more than 7,000 hectares of summer-fall rice and early 10th-month rice in Thuan Hai Province have basically been stamped out. Duc Linh District has mobilized cooperative members using insecticide to exterminate this insect, thus saving 350 hectares of rice. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 12 Aug 78 BK]

INSECTS DESTROYING RICE--According to the Ministry of Agriculture, some 128,000 hectares of rice have been seriously ravaged by leaf hoppers and another 30,000 hectares by blight in various southern provinces. So far, thousands out of 30,000 hectares of rice in Ben Tre Province, 85 percent of the rice area in Thuan Hai Province, 8,677 out of 17,607 hectares in Dong Thap Province and 29,000 out of 35,000 hectares in An Giang Province have been saved from being destroyed by leaf hoppers. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 10 Aug 78 BK]

INSECTS, DISEASE HARM RICE--In Ben Tre Province, apart from 27,000 hectares of 10th-month rice and some 3,000 hectares of late-grown summer-fall rice ravaged by leaf hoppers, another 4,000 hectares of 10th-month rice in Chau Thanh, Binh Dai, Mo Cay, Cho Lach and Giong Trom districts have been affected by a new disease. Thanks to intensive care and fertilization by local peasants, some of the rice plants in these localities are now developing satisfactorily. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 10 Aug 78 BK]

HAU GIANG RICE--Hau Giang Province has transplanted 10th-month rice on 150,000 hectares, representing 50 percent of the planned area. Along with guiding the local peasants in transplanting on the remaining area, the province is actively adopting all available measures to eliminate leaf hoppers that now are threatening tens of thousands of hectares of 10th-month rice and rice seedlings in Long Phu, Thot Not, O Mon, Long My, Ke Sach and Thanh Tri districts. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 12 Aug 78 BK]

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